University Faculty Senate Meeting  
Tuesday, December 13, 2016

Attending:

Charles Allison, SPE, Co-Chair  
Adria Benjamin, CoPA, Co-Chair 
Julie Boyd, CoPA 
Ron Caldwell, Parsons 
Margaret Fiore, SPE 
David Glasser, CoPA 
Margarita Gutman, SPE 
Frank Nemhauser, CoPA 
Derek Porter, Parsons 
Richard Salcer, Parsons 
Christian Schneider, Parsons 
Candy Schulman, SPE 
Luciana Scrutchen, Parsons, Co-Chair 
Scott Whitehurst, Co-Chair 
Jennifer Wilson, Lang

Not Attending: 
Craig Bernecker, Parsons 
Erin Cho, Parsons 
Josh Furst, Lang 
Danielle Goldman, Lang 
Richard Harper, CoPA 
Rachel Heiman, SPE 
Nicolas Langlitz, NSSR 
Mark Larrimore, Lang 
JY Song, CoPA 
Sara Villa, SPE

Luciana began the meeting. Since there was not a quorum the UFS decided to wait to vote on the minutes from the previous meeting.

I. Miscellaneous Business

Derek reported on the situation with the newly elected Parsons senators. He reported that the PFC said that they met with the newly elected senators and that felt like the senators should be able to serve on the UFS with voting privileges. They suggested that Luciana continue to serve as co-chair through the spring semester but not have voting privileges. Adria said that they would have to put this on the January agenda and vote then since there wasn’t a quorum. Christian felt that the co-chairs of the UFS should speak with the co-chairs of the PFC to get the full story and to have transparency about the process. Christian said that he also expressed this to the co-chairs of the PFC.
Frank reported that Julie Boyd’s term is up now because she was on leave for one semester and an election at Drama is imminent. Adria would like to have that election completed by the beginning of the spring semester.

Luciana reported about the Craig’s proposal for Faculty Governance Day on April 11. The president and the provost supported the idea and would be interested in making it an annual event if successful. Luciana said that she was not sure if it would be a half day or a full day event. She imagined that it would be a day of meetings and conversations between faculty. She said that she would ask Craig for a short prospectus and present it at the January meeting.

Adria felt that a top priority should be to get a faculty seat on the BoT. The co-chairs have talked to the president and provost about this and they support the idea. There is precedence about this at other universities. Frank also pointed out that this push came out of the Middle States visit when they expressed surprised about the lack of legislative privileges that the UFS had. Luciana said that the administration was more hesitant of the BoT being in support of the idea. Jennifer asked if the intention of Governance Day was to hold elections on that day or if it was just to educate. Adria said she would check with Craig.

II. Reports from the Standing Committees

A. PTF Affairs Committee, Richard S.

Richard S. reported that the PTF Affairs group met and discussed the following:

- Reaffirm commitment to require at least one PTF as co-chair of the UFS
- PTF regularly attend the Budget Committee meeting
- Wrong to use UFS time for FTF discussion about salaries
- Often feel disenfranchised by TNS community
- Pleased that UFS took on PTF remuneration issue
- Issue of PTF not getting classes to lessen health care coverage
- Wondered how to better communicate with PTF
- Talked about how PTF are eligible to apply for a leave every seven years
- Talked about changing the election process, maybe have the UFS handle it
- Concern about data mining by TNS and new software

Discussion:
Adria pointed out that the UFS created a FTF Affairs committee to address issues that pertain just to FTF so as not to use the UFS space for those discussions.

Adria also reported that student advising is being centralized and would like the UFS to keep an eye on how it goes. Jennifer reported about student group came to Lang Faculty meeting and one of their concerns was advising issues. Margarita asked if it was academic advising. The answer was yes. Charles said for the February UFS meeting that the head of enrollment and head of career services will come to talk to the UFS. They will come to hear faculty concerns. Maybe by the spring TNS will know what is going on with international enrollment. Charles and Adria said that it would be good to have more people come to visit the UFS to give us information about what is happening around the university. Frank said it brought up the idea of the UFS needing more time to discuss things, meaning the UFS might need to meet more than once a month. Jennifer felt it was important to stress the concern around dissolving
career services, since academic advisors were not trained in that area. Adria wondered if the UFS could collect questions for them in advance. David agreed students have had difficulty with not having a career services office. The administration was concerned about a 5% decrease in foreign student enrollment. They felt that would be the worst case scenario. Luciana suggested having Student Senate come in February to talk about unionization instead of enrollment folks. Charles said that the enrollment people wanted to come in February. It was suggested to invite the Student Senate in January to come and report about what is going on with them. The unionization decision was still not made at TNS even though the decision was made at Columbia.

B. FTF Affairs Committee

Frank reported that the committee met with Bryna a few weeks ago. One topic they discussed was the idea of duplicates of FTF Affairs committees: the one in the PO and the one in the UFS. Bryna felt it was good to have two. The issue of salary increases came up again. The issue of communication issues came up. Bryna was concerned that what happened at UFS didn’t get communicated to faculty at large. Charles reported that the issue of service obligations inequity came up and the difference between academic leave eligibility also came up. Bryna acknowledged that these things happen and wanted to help improve this. She said they hoped that Lyterati would capture service expectations and the workload, which would help get a better handle on who was doing what. Frank pointed out that it is the administration who asks faculty to serve on committees. And if faculty weren’t asked to provide service then it was problematic to evaluate faculty on this criteria. David said for Local 802 that the administration wanted to choose who would serve on committees but the union wanted to do it by election. They resolved the issue but having the union provide a list of names to the administration that they can choose from. Luciana pointed out that most of the FTF on Bryna’s FTF Affairs committee were appointed by their dean and all have significant leadership experience, which was similar in the sense that certain people are asked over and over again.

Derek pointed out that the UFS standing committees were never really populated. The UFS gave priority about committees but never received an assignment. Margarita asked about Finance Committee. Charles said that he only heard from one person but that if she was interested she should reach out to Charles. The co-chairs would try to re-populate the standing committees for the spring semester.

III. Spring Calendar

Luciana moved on to discussion about the spring calendar.

Adria said that the president and provost liked the breakfasts with the UFS and said they were going to look for another date in the spring to hold another breakfasts. Adria said the UFS might still want to invite them to a meeting in the spring but it might take the burden off having them attend an actual UFS meeting. Luciana reported that the president also volunteered to use his house for ad hoc issues that come up if the UFS wanted to meet with the administration.

Charles brought up the issue of the development of new programs. Charles asked how the proposals were evaluated and approved. This was an issue that Charles would like to talk with the president. Another issue that came up was how the school was marketed. Charles asked Marketing and Communications to come and give a presentation on this matter. TNS has a 4% brand recognition outside of NYC. Charles said the co-chairs would try to find the time for all these administrators to visit but
that the UFS might need to add another meeting. Charles wondered if there were any other senior leaders that the UFS wanted to ask to come. If so they should be in touch.

Discussion:
Frank felt it was better to try to market the individual schools over TNS as a whole. Scott said the schools were better known but not for being affiliated with TNS. Candy said now with the Open Campus branding launch it was all very confusing. Luciana said she will send around the agenda for the spring semester by the end of the week. Margarita suggested putting a list together of the main issues for the spring semester. Margarita thought it would be good to continue to discuss the salary increase process and maybe a student issue, such as advising. Margarita said that at SUS and Milano they are required to give a report of the UFS to all of the faculty. Adria said that CoPA needed to create a faculty council. Adria said that it would make sense that all colleges had the same governance structure. Frank said to go to their dean’s office and say that the provost office has asked the UFS to be in better communication with the faculty body. Julie reiterated her concern about the student success centralization and one idea might be to conduct a survey with the students to be proactive and arm the UFS with information. Charles said maybe it was something the UFS could suggest to the Student Senate. Career, advising, mentoring survey. Everyone felt it was a good idea to Invite the Student Senate to come in January in advance of student success administrators in February and then possibly add an ad hoc meeting later in February. Then in March MAC could come to speak to the UFS. Candy reminded that we had discussed not having subcommittees reports read at the UFS meeting in an effort to save time. Those reports should be circulated before the meeting.